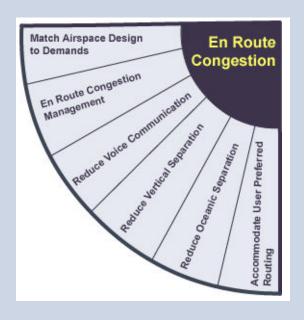
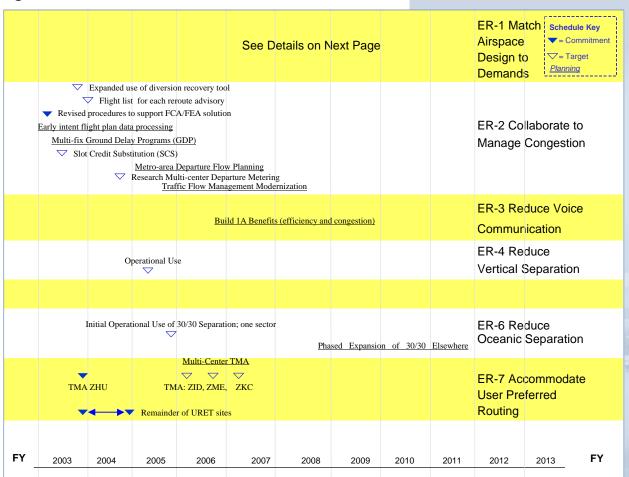
#### **OVERVIEW OF VERSION 5.0**

### **En Route Congestion**

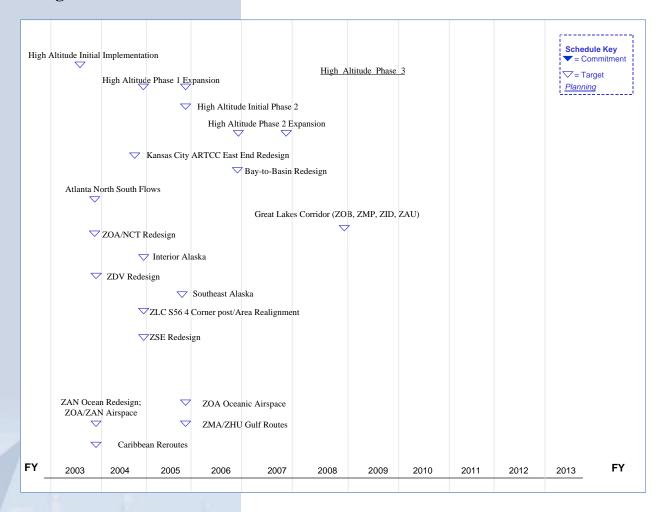
In the en route arena, capacity and efficiency are governed by airspace design, flow planning practices, separation standards and controller workload. Airspace design changes are being made both in the short and long term to fit sectors to the traffic demand and to establish more effective airspace structures in the long run. The long term plans include routes based in RNP of the aircraft. The transition to collaborative decision making and "system thinking" will change flow planning practices to better match available capacity to the demand. Domestic Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (DRVSM) will reduce vertical separation standards from flight level 290 to flight level 410 within the NAS including Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico. Horizontal separation standards of 30 miles are planned in the Oceanic airspace. Controller pilot data link communications along with tools for accommodating and managing user plans and requests (URET and TMA) will assist controllers in managing the forecasted increase in demand.



## **En Route Congestion Quadrant Timeline**

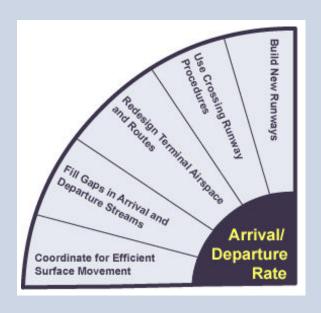


# **ER-1 Match Airspace Design to Demands**

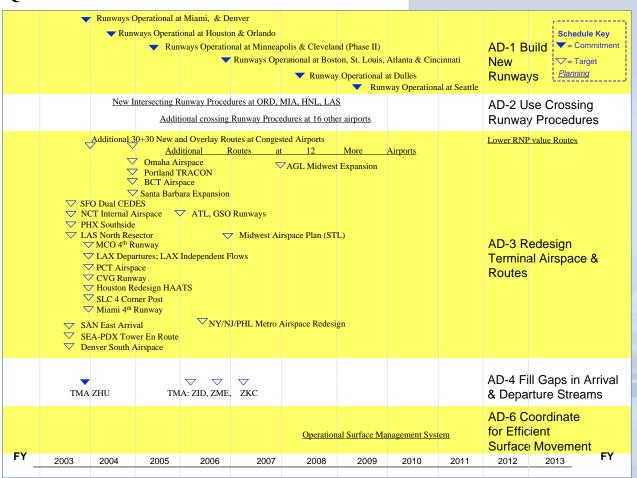


#### **Arrival/Departure Rates**

There are two main strategies to help airports meet peak demand: build new runways and maximize the use of existing runways. New runways can increase the capacity and efficiency of an airport, but may take 10 years to plan, construct and commission. Currently, the OEP includes 12 runways planned at benchmark airports. A combination of air traffic procedures, new technologies, improved airspace design, surface management, and decision support tools are proposed to make better use of existing runways. Procedures will be evaluated for crossing runway configurations at 18 benchmark airports. Terminal airspace redesigns, planned for most of the benchmark airports and metro areas are aimed at improving the transition of arrivals and departures. Traffic management advisory tools which help in managing the arrival stream will become operational at an additional four sites. Also the multi-center capability will be evaluated in the Philadelphia area. Surface management systems are being explored for operational use later in this decade.



## Arrival/Departure Rates Quadrant Timeline

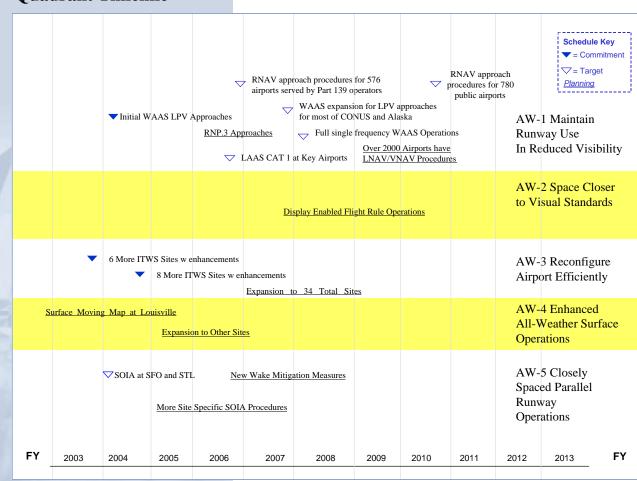




### **Airport Weather**

For the benchmark airports, inclement weather operations lower arrival and departure rates an average of 18 percent. As weather or visibility degrades, runway use may become limited and spacing between aircraft is increased. To make airport operations less sensitive to weather, we need more options for runway configurations and more consistent spacing of operations, much of which requires new technologies. With RNP and improved navigation means, precision approaches become available at more airports. A variety of procedures including wake-mitigation, offsets and along track separation, and flight monitoring allow operations to increase on closely spaced parallel runways as bad weather moves in. Cockpit Display of Traffic Information may enable visual approaches to continue into marginal visual flight rules conditions. A moving map display may also help with improved surface situational awareness.

## **Airport Weather Quadrant Timeline**



#### **En Route Severe Weather**

In fiscal year 2002, over 70 percent of delays were attributed to restrictions due to weather. These results are typical of recent years. Improving forecasts, sharing real-time data and the application of weather information to traffic management planning, as well as integrating weather information into decision support systems will mitigate weather related delays. The disruptions caused by hazardous en route weather are magnified by the uncertainty in the location, movement and severity of the weather conditions. Forecast accuracy is not well suited to the strategic planning of traffic flow decisions. Joint planning is further hindered by limitations in real-time data sharing capabilities. Operational decision making by airlines and traffic flow managers will be improved when common awareness of the situation and a methodology to mitigate the impact are coupled with the improved data exchange, training for interpretation of forecasts, and the coordination processes.



## **En Route Severe Weather Quadrant Timeline**

